

WRESTLING FORUM

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ISSUE 1

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRETTM

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MAY I HAVE THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE...

We have officially ended the year end awards balloting, counted the votes and the winners are listed elsewhere in this issue. We had a disappointing total of 50 ballots cast this year, which was up from last year, but down from the second year we did it. I'd like to thank each and every one who participated and you can look for a surprise in the mail this next week or so. Special thanks go out to ERIC HOYME, TERESA DEMARIE, and STEVE YOHE who not only voted but wrote virtual novels to explain their choices. Steve put it best when he said, "I spent a year in Viet Nam and didn't write my mother this much!"

Also, some special thanks to the three of you who Federal Expressed you ballots to get them here by deadline. Just one question: Since only a handful of people in the whole world know my street address, how did you two of you manage to get it?!!

Well, before getting on to anything else, let me remind you that this is Wrestling Forum and we are definitely not a sport, but pure (well, maybe not pure) entertainment. We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month and mail with in the next couple of days. Cost per issue is \$1.50 and you may subscribe for upto six months at any one time. All correspondence, such as results, letters, renewals, feature article submissions, etc., unless otherwise specifically noted, may be sent to WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448.

We have made a decision about the yearbook (with the help of several callers who threatened terrible things if we didn't publish one). The result is that we will publish the 1989 Yearbook sometime around the middle of February. We started working on it very hard last week and it should be completed by February 15 and in the mail sometime between the 2/15/90 and 2/28/90 issues. That is very tentative. I have taken a mock up copy to several printers and I'm getting their bids in now, so I don't know how much we'll be charging, but anyone who voted in either the year end poll or the decade end poll will receive a discount. I will have complete details on ordering by next issue.

Last issue we published several new year's resolutions from wrestlers. I should have published my own. Take a look:

1. We will publish on time from now on...we've had several excuses but no good reasons.
2. I will try to contain myself with my opinions on GLOW and other woman's wrestling. I'll also control myself with reader's whose opinions differ from mine. Attack me or my family and all bets are off.
3. Improve the quality of both looks and content.
4. Finally reach the long standing goal of 300 subscribers by year end.

We will publish on the 30th of this month. We had tentatively set that issue aside to work on the yearbook, but I think I'll have enough time to do both. Next issue may be a little short on content as a result and we are looking for as many reader contributions for the 1/30/90 issue as possible to cut down on the actual amount of work I have to do.

Enough chit chat...let's get on with the news, but first, the finals of the 4th Annual Wrestling Forum Tournament with Sean Grande...

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by Sean Grande

Thanks for your participation in this year's tournament. There were lots of surprises throughout including the elimination of two time champion Ric Flair. We'll be starting the 5th annual tournament before Thanksgiving and if there's any modifications you'd like to see in the way we do things, be sure and let Jon or me know.

Here's the results from the final round:

HULK HOGAN 15 Stan Hansen 7
RICK STEAMBOAT 11 Great Muta 10 (1 draw)
TED DIBIASE 12 Randy Savage 10
 championship
CURT HENNIG 14 Barry Windham 8

That leaves us with these final standings:

1. Curt Hennig
2. Barry Windham
3. Ted DiBiase
4. Randy Savage
5. Ricky Steamboat
6. Great Muta
7. Hulk Hogan
8. Stan Hansen

Thanks again for your support!

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* * AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION * *

TROUBLES CONTINUE TO COME IN DROVES for the AWA. Live event coordinator Dale Gagner has tendered his resignation. Gagner feels that he has "done all (he) can, considering the restrictions set by Verne and Greg." Gagner will stay on with the promotion through the 2/17 taping and he wants to remain in the wrestling business. His resignation will leave the AWA in the hands of Verne, Greg and BS Bob Ryan. That's funny and scary at the same time.

LOCALLY, THE SYNDICATED SHOW WAS TAKEN off the air after a five month run. A spokesman for the TV station expressed concern over broken promises. "We were to have shared in revenues from both live events and PPV specials," he told me. "So far, they've done just ONE live event which we didn't see one red cent from, and there are no plans for a PPV in any way, shape or form." He went on to explain that the AWA had promised a live event monthly in the Quad Cities' area. The one show they did was sponsored by a minor league baseball team and the AWA was paid a guarantee. The station would have gotten a percentage of the gate after the first \$5500. The gate was less than \$2500. When the station called the AWA to see about the possibility of another live event, they were told that if they would put up the guarantee (\$5500), then the AWA would be happy (hell, they be estatic!) to come to town. The station was told that this is the only way they book shows anymore.

THE LATEST SET OF TAPINGS TOOK PLACE this past Saturday (1/13) and not a whole heck of a lot happened. The AWA introduced four "new" rules that would be effective immediately. They are: 1. no ramming your opponent into the ring post outside the ring; 2. no coming off the top ropes; 3. no throwing your opponent over the top rope; 4. no assisting your partner off the second rope in order to attain more height (Destruction Crew's move). Except for the last rule, these were all rules instituted while I was in high school (watch it!) but conveniently forgotten about.

TOMMY JAMMER GOT HIMSELF IN AN EMBARRASSING position during one of his squash matches. He went to put on the abdominal stretch, his finishing maneuver, and forgot how to do it! He tried three times, the first, forgetting how his feet and legs should go. The second, he had trouble with his arms, then he couldn't get his feet right. This was not three separate times, it all happened within about a thirty second span. When the assembled audience began laughing, Tommy gave it up and went for a small package.

THEY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE TRYING to sign Nikita Koloff, JYD, and Paul Orndorff for the next card. JYD got the biggest reaction, but that isn't saying a whole lot. Later they announced that they had signed Nikita for the next card (2/17).

SGT SLAUGHTER AND RUSSIAN BRUTE HAD A TAPED fist match that ended with Ox Baker interfering. Baron Von Raschke ran in to make the save, but he and Sarge got in an argument. The end result after a bunch of accusations was they decided to end their friendship until after the end of the team challenge series.

LARRY ZBYSZKO WORKED IN TWO SQUASH matches, but did not defend his AWA belt. You can find more info on this in Miscellaneous Stuff.

COL DEBEERS AND JOHN NORD HAD A match where both guys had one hand tied behind their back. Nord won the match when Adnon Al-Kaissey interfered and untied DeBeers' hand.

ESPN WILL AIR AWA TAPES IN THE Monday afternoon time slot (4pm EST) on alternating weeks.

Pencil Points

TITAN HYPOCRISY

I have just seen my last WWF card live. I have just paid for my last WWF Pay Per View Event. Titan Sports will never see another dime from me.

The recent barrage of Titan logic surrounding the possibility that some cable companies may not carry Royal Rumble and Wrestlemania ranks right up there with the all time lows in hypocisy. They are proclaim America's rights to choice. These are the same (deleted) that toss people out of their buldings when they have signs that don't fall in line with what they want portrayed. These are the same (deleted) that throw people out of their buildings for wearing the wrong tee-shirts. These are the same (deleted) that try to block the competition from using the same buildings that they do. These are the same (deleted) that tried to keep Kerry Von Erich from wrestling here in Illinois at Superclash III. These are the same (deleted) that have tried to block the NWA from doing Pay Per Views at all.

It's too bad that Vince McMahon was born when he was. He would have made an excellent assistant to Adolph Hitler.

-KEN SNIDER-

-Waukegan, IL-

YEAR END AWARDS

When I first became acquainted with the Kay Fabe sheets, I was really upset with the editors for exposing our business. In the past three or four years, however, I have come to respect what you do, more than the other editors and sheets on the market. You tend to be total honest when handing out both praise and criticism and you freely admit when you're wrong.

Enough compliments. I want to talk about the year end awards. They're a joke. The concept is fine, except that you have a bunch of laim-brained smart fans who think they know everything about the business doing the voting. While most know what they enjoy watching, I would say that fewer than 1% know what constitutes a well worked match. Most would not consider Red Rooster vs Brooklyn Brawler a good feud, while, in a business sense, it was. It, for example, did everything it was supposed to do and both men worked hard to get the angle over. Although it could never happen, I would prefer to see the voting limited to wrestlers, managers, announcers and promoters instead of fans. Experts such as yourself would also be allowed.

As you may be able to tell, I have little respect for smart or inside fans. Watch them next time a group is gathered. Your annual convention would be a good spot. They have an air of superiority that makes me sick. All they want to do is show off their so called knowledge (which more often than not is just you and Meltzer being parrot). That's why I won't ever take the time to "talk shop" with these fans. I can read you guys without hearing it from a seventeen year old kid.

-NAME WITHHELD-

EDITOR: I can understand your thoughts and I thank you for sharing them. However, the year end awards were designed for the fans to express what they think, not what those involved in the business think. I find that when a ballot comes in from a wrestler or anyone else involved in the business, the votes tend to be very biased. In the first two years of balloting, an independent wrestler named Marcial Bovee was one of our voters. He voted for himself in nearly every category. As for myself being an expert, thank you, but I consider myself just a fan (like the ones you described) with a big mouth and a typewriter.

RIC FLAIR

Eh gads, what was that I saw on The Main Event this weekend? The Ghost of Ric Flair? Now, Ric has looked pretty worn of late, but he looked horrible here. And I thought Piper looked pretty bad since he's been injured. He looks a good fifteen years younger than Flair at this point, which is pretty frightening. Flair may have had a tan, but you'd never know it. The first part of the match with Eaton was dreadful for a Flair match; I can't bring to mind when I last saw Flair work that slow. There was one camera shot of Flair on the mat at the beginning that reminded me uncomfortably of Rip Van Winkle. The match finished up on a much higher note, but if this is what booking is doing to Ric Flair, it just ain't worth it.

-TERESA DeMARIE-

-Tuckahoe, NY-

EDITOR: This match you speak of was taped in Peoria. This was Flair's second match of the night. The night before he had wrestled three times at Starrcade. The night before that, at least once for a TV taping (I believe) in Raleigh, and twice on the night before that. That's eight matches in four nights in four different cities. I agree though; he looked like he was about sixty years old.

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED AWARDS

A suggestion, perhaps, for your Dipstick(s) of the Month Award? Let's let this one go to the crew of half-wits over at Pro Wrestling Illustrated.

Since I discovered the sheets, I don't buy magazines anymore, except for the awards issue of PWI. I always find it to be some of the best fiction available. I can't argue with their choices this year for the most part (I didn't realize in the past that THEY chose the winners well in advance, not the fans), but there are several very stupid things they had the guts to print this year that I thought I might point out.

First, they claim that more than 68,000 ballots were cast. Right. From what I've heard, that means every single fan who reads that rag voted. And Brutus Beefcake and Hulk Hogan are brothers, right? The "Most hated wrestler" category drew the most votes of any category with 69,526 fans responding. In an opening editorial, they talk about how they had hoped that Nikita Koloff would win the Inspirational wrestler award. Eric Embry "won" instead with 14,568 votes. If that's the case, then why does World Class have to beg fans in order to draw 250 to their Dallas shows?

The Unofficial awards are pretty good, but for anyone who thinks that there are no true marks left in the world should check out the predictions, especially those by Mark McCollum, Erik Chapla, and Marie Daltzell. Of course, there will be several letters in the coming months from people who believe the awards were legit and prove the existence of more marks. It's fun reading, but somehow, I think I can wait another year for the next purchase of their contribution to literary mediocrity.

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

NWA

THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF NEWS FROM here! I'll just go in the order of my notes...

THEY'RE EITHER PLANNING ON TURNING Sid Vicious or burying him. Mark Calloway, AKA Mark Callas (what he's going by here), AKA Master of Pain (from Memphis) has been brought in as the new Skyscraper. They have acknowledged Sid's punctured lung which is the first step in turning him (sympathy angle). Second step was for them to bring in Mean Mark and bad mouth Vicious in the process. This will work to turn him babyface if he sticks around after he recovers, or it will help to bury him should he jump to the WWF. As we get closer to the time his contract expires (March or April) I expect to hear less and less of him unless he returns here for sure.

CACTUS JACK IS GETTING A CHANCE TO show off his brand of insanity. There is no one in wrestling who takes any more suicidal bumps than this guy. We got to see him a year and a half ago in Memphis and he took this bump outside the ring that left 70 some inside fans with our hearts in our mouths. He landed on the arena floor head first and there was this giant pool of blood under him. We thought he was dead. He's unleashed this type of thing on the NWA (minus the blood of course) in the past few weeks. He's taken to getting paired with jobbers in tag matches and then beating the snot out of his partner when they lose. Last week, he beat up Lee Scott after a loss and Scott came back later and challenged Jack for the next week. Cactus Jack has lost in singles matches to Tommy Rich and Brian Pillman in tremendous matches in which they played up his psychotic personality.

IN THE MATCH AGAINST LEE SCOTT, Scott attacked Cactus Jack before the match and held the upper hand for the first few minutes. Jack came back and turned the match into a squash. It was one of the few squash matches that could be graded B+ quality or higher.

HERE'S PART OF THE LINE UP for the 2/6 Clash of Champions: Flair, Sting, and Arn will take on Sawyer, Muta and Dragon Master in a cage. Doom puts up their masks against the tag team titles of the Steiners, Doc vs Samoan Savage, Mils Mascaras wrestles Cactus Jack and the Road Warriors vs the New Skyscrapers.

THEY'VE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE NEXT PPV on 2/25 in Greensboro (that you've all known about for months), but they threw in a little surprise as well. We had been not only telling you that Ric Flair would be wrestling Lex Luger, but he'd also be losing the title to him. Wrong. Or at least that's what they want us to think. It was announced that Sting will be Flair's opponent. I still don't think so.

THE WORD THEY'RE PUTTING OUT IS that Jim Herd's market research determined that Sting would be a better challenger/champion than Luger. Since that word came down from Herd's office that makes it as reliable as a two dollar wristwatch. I think that he tried hard to keep it a secret and the sheets got hold of it and he had to do something to change his mind to discredit the sheets.

JUST IN CASE, LUGER DID AN INTERVIEW where he was upset that it wasn't him that got the title shot. He made veiled threats that Sting might not make it to 2/25 so if something happens where he attacks and injures Sting, son't be surprised.

JIM ROSS ALSO TOLD US THAT STING had been signed to wrestle "whoever is champion on 2/25." That could mean there could be a title change before that date (Flair does wrestle Luger all over the rest of this month) but I doubt it.

THE MAIN REASON, THOUGH, THAT I DON'T think we'll see Flair vs Sting is just due to the track record of the NWA. It's six weeks before the PPV event. They've never taken more than three weeks to set something

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up in the past. I hardly believe they'd take a lesson from the WWF and start using time wisely now.

JUST GOT TO SEE ANOTHER TOM Zenk interview. Hard to believe he's been around so long and still hasn't learned how to do a decent one.

GARY HART HAS BEEN FIRED AS reported last issue. Gary is a stubborn sort who has what is called "screw-you" money which means he really didn't need what they were paying him. It gave him an "attitude problem" that tended to tick off the upper brass. It was nothing for him to get in an argument with someone and just go, sit down and pull out a sheet and start reading it right there in the locker room. I don't think a lot of him as a manager, but you do have to admire someone with guts like that.

JIM CORNETTE IS BACK DOING HIS Louisville Slugger interview spot. The first installment was used to set up something between Woman and Flair. Flair was the guest and midway through the interview, Woman and Nitron came out and she told Flair that she would like to manage him and that with her she could assure him a win over Sting. She also said that she wants to own the Four Horsemen. Flair told her that business and pleasure didn't mix but I don't think we've seen the last of this.

CAN SOMEONE OUT THERE TELL ME who the hell the BOYS are and why do they have that stupid commercial for their hotline on every single NWA show?

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A MONTH MAKES... a month ago, the NWA pulled out of Hammond Indiana because of an advance of thirteen. This week, they returned there on the 11th and sold the place out. Maybe that will work in Rochester, NY. They were scheduled there on 1/8 but pulled out due to a poor advance. The WWF had something to do with that. The first time the NWA was there, they were at the Civic Arena and had a decent turn out. That's where the WWF usually runs and they put up a fuss so this time, the NWA had to go to an out of the way arena (which I'm told is better for wrestling anyway) but they couldn't sell any tickets. The WWF isn't all to blame though...something about 2½ months between shows didn't help any, I'm sure.

AND LET'S STRAIGHTEN THAT LAST one out before we go any further. It was GARY, Indiana that the NWA canceled out last month. Hammond is right next door. The difference is, the arena in Gary is in a real "bad" part of town while the arena in Hammond is in a nicer part and has a long history of hosting wrestling.

ARN ANDERSON IS THE NEW TV CHAMP after beating Muta on the Power Hour. Taped 1/2 in Gainesville, GA. Arn was particularly good in selling Muta's kicks and power moves and Muta went all out as well. The match went back and forth with just about every one of their favorite moves being employed. Buzz Sawyer and Dragon Master came out midway through the match to cheer on Muta. At one point, Dragon Master distracted the referee while Buzz came off the top ropes on Anderson. Arn kicked out at the two count. The end came when Muta went for a moonsault and Arn pulled up his knees (this didn't look real good because Muta landed on his feet just a fraction of a second before Arn pulled up his knees). While Muta was bent over, Arn DDT'd him for the pin.

STEVE WILLIAMS SHOULD BE TURNING HEEL in the near future. We're not sure whether it will be at the Clash or at Wrestlewar, but look for Jim Cornette to handle him shortly there after. This guy has been through more turns in the past year an a half than a window fan!

ARE THEY HAPPY? THEY SHOULD BE! The Hammond Civic Center wrote the NWA a check (after all expenses e.g. rental, security, etc) for just a little over \$27,000.

MICHAEL HAYES HAS BEEN SAYING SOME VERY cryptic things lately. He

was warning other teams that there are only two members of opposing teams but "four of us." I don't know if that means that they will be coming to some sort of agreement with Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts or if this is just Michael runnig off at the mouth again.

THE FREEBIRDS AND ROCK AND Roll Express had a match on the latest NWA Main Event. A decent effort that ended with the Midnight Express and Dynamic Dudes getting invol in the run in. Look for these four teams to have some eight man matches across the country.

IT WAS ANNOUNCED ON THE WORLD Wide show that they would be having the finals of the US Tag Team tournament on the show. We were wondering what happened to those titles! They made a big deal out of it last year and even had the final match of THAT tournament on one of the Clash of Champions shows when the Fantastics beat Eddie Gilbert and Ron Simmons.

FUNK'S GRILL WILL BE A REGULAR feature on the World Wide show from now on. His first guest was Ric Flair and the only thing different from this interview slot and the one they did with Cornette is that Terry Funk was holding the mike instead of Jim. The rest, including Woman's int sion. You know, they ought to ban her from opening her mouth. Her acting ability is one notch below that of a fire hydrant (which is two notches above Hogan's).

TULLY BLANCHARD IS MAKING NOISE that he may sue the NWA and Jim Herd for breach of verbal contract. He's telling friends that he would rather wrestle than sue. Threatening litigation may get him a job in whatever role they come up with. Personally, I think bringing him back now would be even more effective than if he would have come in with Arn. No one's expecting him now and whether they bring him back as a baby or a heel, I think they could turn it into some dollars at the gate.

DON'T LOOK FOR KENDALL WINDHAM to return soon. See Miscellaneous stuff for the story. Front office personnel are revoking his contract due to outside activities that would have an adverse effect on the promotion.

NORMAN AND KEVIN SULLIVAN HAD a special challenge match on the latest World Wide show. It wasn't much of a match in a wrestling sense, but it was a great brawl. It went out of the ring almost from the outset and they brawled through the crowd and out the back door of the arena. Norman's character is limiting what he can do in the ring (although it sure didn't when he wrestled Brian Pillman on a recent Clash), but they may have found his strong point in the role of a brawler. I really enjoyed this match more than I though I could.

INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

International Championship Wrestling
by Mike Viola

APPARENTLY, I WAS THE ONLY one who thought very highly of Bad Boy Tony Rumble as the TV color man. He is now the manager of the Tag Team champions, the Undertakers, and is sharing the TV duties with fellow manager the Duke (who also does a good job behind the mike). The Duke, however, is no longer the manager of many of the wrestlers that he was in charge of last month. He retains only the services of the ICW heavy-weight champ, Tony Atlas. All of the other wrestlers he managed are coming to the ring by themselves for now. No reason was given for this shakeup.

ATLAS WAS ON "THE RUMBLE-SEAT" and actually gave a pretty good interview (really...I'm not kidding). Tony spoke about everyone he had run out of the ICW, including Scott and Ivan Putski, Joe Savoldi, and Bob Orton. Couple this with Orton no showing the 12/16 TV taping and you start to think that Mr. USA is going to need a new #1 contender to his belt. The Savoldi injury may be legit (after all, his dad owns the promotion) as his tag team partner Vic Steamboat is wrestling solo now, and announcer Bob Dow mentions Savoldi's injury as well.

TOM "MR CHIPPENDALE" BRANDI is also on the disabled list and he has gotten Dr. Tom Pritchard (who looks like Bill Irwin and talks exactly like Roddy Piper) to take his place in matches.

THE DYNAMIC DUO OF ERIC SERACIA and Phil Apollo have reunited and have been challenged by the Undertakers to a "put up or shut up" match. If the Duo win, they get the belts; if they lose, they both must leave the ICW (which was probably high on their Christmas wish list anyway). This match was to have taken place on 12/30 in what the ICW called the "Silent Night, Deadly Night" card. Atlas' opponent was to have been Orton but I believe that was changed.

OTHER INDEPENDENTS

RINGSIDE WRESTLING ASSOCIATION IS the name of a brand new promotion based out of Clinton, Iowa and headed up by Rocky Brewer, formerly of Midwest Championship Wrestling which was based out of the same area. They taped their first six or eight half hour TV shows in Charlotte, Iowa (population 100) in front of a very rowdy 100 fans (no security). The shows will air on the public access channel of a few local cable companies. Brewer won the promotion's title (taping done 1/6/90), but we have no idea what it was called as there was no PA system. We'll keep you updated on future cards. Also, Baron Von Raschke appeared on this card.

HERRITAGE CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, BASED out of Mississippi, has folded operation already. The group had hoped to gain some favorable TV slots, but the money ran out before they could secure any at all.

MIKE GRAHAM HAS QUIT THE PROFESSIONAL Wrestling from Florida promotion and has "taken his ball and gone home" so to speak. The group had been using Mike's personally owned building to run shows from, but Mike will not be renting to them anymore.

PWF IS GOING TO TRY OFFERING ITS STOCK to the public, much the same was Global Wrestling Alliance did early last year. The stockbroker appears via commercial each week pushing the stock. We understand that it only costs \$1.00 a share, but you have to buy it in 10 share blocks (can someone tell me what I just said?). They are actually telling home viewers that as soon as some of the stock is sold, they can start bringing in "wrestlers you have heard of...the wrestlers who perform on Saturday morning TV."

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THE TV SHOW IS TAPED WITH A LIVE Band and the studio audience was subjected to the Nasty Boys doing Mic Jagger impersonations at the last set of tapings (on 1/2).

ON THE 1/4 SHOW IN TAMPA, THE Bounty Hunters, a masked tag team took on Nasty Boy Brian Knobs and Hurricane Walker (subbing for no showing Jerry Sags). The match only went about 2:00 as Walker was "injured" and the match was declared a no contest. In reality, one of the bounty hunters was hurt and after the audience (estimated at 70) left, the Bounty hunter left via ambulance, clutching his hand and arm.

STEVE KEIRN CONTINUES AS PWF Champion. He's been wrestling Mark Starr and Lou Perez as his main challengers.

A NEW GROUP CALLED THE WESTERN Wrestling Alliance is trying to put together enough monetary support to get started. Ivan Putski is the leader of the group and has opened a wrestling school (where it would be justified for HIM to PAY STUDENTS) and the group hopes to get on the Fox network. This is a bit of a surprise since the Fox network is famous for carrying WWF almost exclusively. This group would be run out of Texas (so to speak). Joe Blanchard, cardboard president of the AWA, has something to do with the group. I've been told that they have talked with Tully Blanchard about working here, but nothing is definite and that they would prefer to use wrestlers from the Putski school. I wonder if they want to have an audience or not.

WINDY CITY SEEMS TO HAVE WON THE war of promotions between themselves and Chicago Challenge. Not much has been heard from Buddy Roberts and the Sinister Minister in the past month and their TV show has been nothing but reruns (when it's been on).

THE SITUATION WITH CONTINENTAL has gotten muddled over the past few weeks. It stems from David Woods talking to not only Eddie Gilbert but also Max Andrews and Jerry Jarrett, plus others. Paul E Dangerously was to have gone down to tape some lead ins that would have introduced previous clips, mainly from the time when Eddie Gilbert was booker. But when no one could figure out who was really getting the slots, the TV studio canceled those plans and decided just to run old shows for right now. With Eddie tied up with the NWA right now, and time being sort of the essence, I don't think that Gilbert and Dangerously have a very good chance of pulling it off.

DANGEROUSLY IN THE MEANTIME, HAS reportedly put together a bunch of investors in hopes of being able to unite the independent promotions across the country. This has been tried before, most memorable being the failed coalition between the AWA, NWA, Memphis, Continental where the only thing everyone could agree on was that they all hated Vince McMahon. It was so memorable that I can't even remember what they called it.

STU HART HAS OPTED TO CLOSE DOWN the Stampede promotion in Calgary. Ed Whalen, whose influence and power has always been a mystery has been killing the promotion slowly for the past few months by refusing to air angles that he found too violent or graphic. How 'bout that! Someone who's more moralistic than I am! Anyway, Ed also controls some of the purse strings and because attendance was dying (because he wasn't airing angles) he had cut payoffs to the \$25 per night range. New talent was staying an average of two or three days before quitting. The promotion will remain closed through March 1 at least. In the meantime, the Canadian version of ESPN is showing tapes of a Winnipeg indy that's said to be smaller than Windy City.

RINGING IN THE NINETIES

The eighties proved to be a decade of drastic change in the world of wrestling. The decade started off with three major promotions and several strong territories plus the independents scattered throughout the country. Although wrestlers didn't make a lot of money, there always seemed to be work available. And if they got screwed by one promoter, there was always somewhere else to go.

Vince McMahon changed all that when he expanded his WWF and altered wrestling forever. Had anyone had a crystal ball at the beginning of the decade, they might have been able to cash in on some of the empire he created. As it was, McMahon caught everyone else flat-footed and turned his idea into millions.

Now we're preparing to enter a new decade. The ten years that have past since the relative security of territorial promotions seem like an eternity ago. Less than ten years ago, Verne Gagne was drawing respectable houses not only in his home area of Minneapolis-St Paul, but all around the midwest. Now he owns the biggest joke in wrestling. The NWA was a group of disjointed promotions sharing a common champion. Now they are a national promotion, pretending hard that they are in the same league with the WWF. No one could have predicted what we were in store for.

What will the next ten years bring? There's no way of knowing, based on what we've seen in the past ten. But we can make some educated guesses.

By the end of the nineties, I doubt the WWF will be in the solid number one position it is today. They market their product towards a new group of fans every few years so that when one group of fans burn out, there will be another group ready to replace them. With the type of wrestling the present, that is their only hope of survival. One has to wonder how long they can continue to present new characters and gimmicks without repeating themselves. Repetition may not be a problem as their fandom is constantly changing as well.

Their main problem will be replacing superstar Hulk Hogan. His retirement is all but a given sometime during the next decade. Will the WWF be able to replace him. The problem comes with the fact that anyone who tried to replace him will be viewed as an imitation and imitations never get over the same way the real thing does. Still, Titan may make the fatal mistake of trying to replace him with a Hogan clone.

The NWA will continue in their fruitless struggle to overtake the WWF in popularity. They will remain the favorite of hardcores and purists, but judging from the past several months of Turner ownership, those in power will continue to be placed in those positions based on who they know rather than what they know. Until personal feelings are left behind and business matters are put first, the NWA will continue to flounder.

As for the AWA, they could be dead by the time you read this. If they make it midway through the nineties, the entire wrestling world will be shocked.

Independent promotions will continue to pop up all over with small payoffs and big promises. Their place in wrestling will be solidified toward the middle of the decade as they will be the only promotions willing to do the small markets at all.

Larger promotions will rely almost exclusively on PPV for revenue. Arena shows will be confined to only larger cities where they know they can draw a decent house. Monthly shows will become a thing of the past with the possible exception of the promotion's home base.

Independents will also be used as a feeder system for the major promotion. I look for each indy to associate itself exclusively with one of the major promotion, there by arranging not only the feeder system, but allowing mid level stars to make extra money by working on the indy shows. This would be a version of Crockett's failed purchase of Central States, Florida and UWF.

I also look for the emergence of a third national promotion to give an alternative to the WWF and NWA. This third promotion could possibly become bigger than either during the next decade if they learn from the mistakes of McMahon, Turner and Gagne. It may well be one of the Japanese promotions who make a run at this in the next ten years.

The media should lose whatever fascination they have left and ignore wrestling like the early 70's. NBC should continue to carry WWF events because of the ratings, but I think we're less likely to see the expose type coverage that has been popular since the 20/20 segment with everyone's favorite punching bag John Stossel.

Insider sheets will also continue, though I look for a whole new batch to be on the market by the end of the century. I doubt that any of us publishing now can cope with what we do for another ten years.

The style of wrestling itself will become more and more high flying in nature. The smaller wrestlers will have to learn this style in order to be accepted amongst the land of steroid monsters that will still dominate the sport.

Based on the recent success of amateur wrestling in Pittsburgh, and looking at wrestling on a high school and college level, I expect that free style wrestling will have its day in the sun and will culminate with the 1992 or 1996 Olympics.

It's nice to sit back and guess; that's all we've done. It's like I said before, no one could have predicted the changes in the eighties. I hardly think this article will do an adequate job of forecasting the nineties.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The votes are in and here are the results of our 4th annual year end poll.

We had 50 voters this year. Many categories were decided by one or two ballots. Some of the results are a surprise; in fact the leading candidate for **BIGGEST SHOCK** of 1990 has to be the results of some of these categories. Listed are the winners only (complete results can be found in the Wrestling Forum Yearbook) along with the number of points each winner compiled in the balloting.

MAN OF THE YEAR

Vince McMahon (48)

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Wayne Bloom (52)

WORST PROMOTION

American Wrestling Alliance (106)

MOST OVERRATED

Ultimate Warrior (55)

MATCH OF THE YEARFlair vs Funk - I Quit Match
11/15/89 Troy, NY (59)COLOR COMMENTATOR

Jesse Ventura (105)

ANGLE OF THE YEAR

Funk attacks Flair 5/7/89 (99)

DUMBEST/WORST ANGLE

Dusty Rhodes' intro skits (39)

WORST WRESTLER

Andre the Giant (79)

BEST HEEL

Terry Funk (90)

DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR

Verne Gagne & the AWA (80½)

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER

Lex Luger (96½)

WORST FINISHER

Hogan's leg bomb (91)

MOST DISGUSTING EVENT

Dusty's Tidy-Bowl skit (38)

WORST ANNOUNCER

Lord Alfred Hayes (40)

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Ric Flair (539)

BEST PROMOTION

National Wrestling Alliance (89)

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

Rick & Scott Steiner (70)

MOST UNDERRATED

Curt Hennig (34½)

ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR

Jim Ross (113)

JOBBER OF THE YEAR

Barry Horowitz (90)

FEUD OF THE YEAR

Ric Flair vs Terry Funk (97)

DUMBEST/WORST FEUD

Andre vs Ultimate Warrior (85)

BEST BABYFACE

Hulk Hogan (89)

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Jim Cornette (104)

BEST TV SHOW

World Championship-Saturday on TBS (71)

BEST FINISHING MANEUVER

(69) Scott Steiner's Frankenstein

BEST INTERVIEW

Terry Funk (62)

BIGGEST SHOCK

Dusty in the WWF (72)

BEST MAJOR EVENT

Wrestlewar 89 - 5/7/89 (60)

ANOTHER RIDICULOUS
WRESTLING FORUM
TOP TEN

Yep, we did it again. Had an extra page that we just didn't know what to do with. So here's another one of our top ten lists a la David Letterman. Here we present, the

TOP TEN GIMMICKS THE WWF HASN'T USED YET
(but it's just a matter of time)

The WWF has exploited just about every single profession in the world. Rick Martel is the Model, Brutus Beefcake is the Barber, Lanny Poffo is a genius, Brother Love is a minister, etc, etc, etc. Here's some they haven't gotten to yet. We're not going to help them by giving them suggestions as to what wrestlers to use for in each role (maybe some of you can come up with that). After all, we're not paid consultants...

10. **WATERBED SALESMAN** - he comes to the ring in pajamas. As a heel, he uses a pillow to suffocate his opponent behind the ref's back. If he turns babyface then he uses (what else?) the sleeper as a finisher.
9. **EXTERMINATOR** - a babyface who "squashes opponents like a bug." His finisher can be a suplex of some sort called "the bug bomb."
8. **IRS AGENT** - no doubt a jobber if Vince has anything to say about it. He could threaten to audit anyone he beats
7. **SPACE ALIEN** - Vince would claim that he recruited the guy from another galaxy and 83% of the WWF fans would never question it.
6. **HOBO** - comes to the ring in rags and a hankercchief pack on a stick. He's introduced to fans with a skit where he's just looking for a way to earn money for a meal. He wins and he continues to pop up at house shows everywhere.
5. **DOCTOR/DENTIST** - this guy can diagnose weak spots in his opponents. As a dentist he can practice extractions (without novacaine) as his finishing hold.
4. **INSURANCE SALESMAN** - Before the match, he sells his opponent anything from a basic hospitalization policy to a universal life. Depending on how much he buys (or doesn't buy) is how bad he gets hurt in the match.
3. **ATTORNEY** - This guy uses loopholes in the rule book to overturn decisions against him. He can feud with the Insurance Agent when he threatens to sue him when he hurts other wrestlers.
2. **PHARMACIST** - this seems only so natural for the Fed I'm surprised no one's thought of it yet.
1. **A WRESTLER** - in the mold of a Billy Robinson or a Wilbur Snider, this guy wrestles. He would be a no nonsense...nah! The average WWF fan would never buy it.

UNITED STATES WRESTLING ASSOCIATION
by Mike Viola

Things are still a little slow in this area, as everyone must be recovering from their holiday hangovers. On a recent TV taping in fact, things were so bad that they filled the card with two women wrestlers, Skandar Akbar, and (you better be sitting for this) Tojo Yamamoto. Not to worry though; in Texas, where there's Billy Joe Travis, there's bound to be some sort of mayhem, and this week was no exception.

Besides killing even more time with a five minute synopsis of "the misdeeds of Billy Joe Travis", the only real match was a six man event featuring Travis, Gary Young, and Akbar against Bill Dundee, Eric Embry, and Chris Adams. As Jon alluded to last issue, there have been serious rifts in the friendship between Adams and Embry and the conclusion of this match made these rifts permanent. Adams spent most of the match having his leg beaten by the Devastation trio. A few times he was thrown out of the ring, where Toni Adams and Embry helped. Toni really did not want Chris to continue but Eric pushed him back in anyway. When Chris fell out of the ring again, Toni starts pushing Eric away, as he tries to throw Chris back in, Eric then shoves Toni but quickly grabs his own head and rushes over to help her up. Then Adams starts slugging Eric for pushing his wife. The fight goes on for, oh...about a day or so, before help finally arrives.

Eric is almost certainly the heel now, and unless he leaves Texas (which is a very good possibility at this point) I see him joining Akbar's crew. This way, they can team him and Travis against Kerry Von Erich and Adams which they hope will sell some tickets.

Speaking of Devastation, Akbar was giving commentary on the Tojo match and dwelled on Tojo's opponent (and eventual winner) Chico Torrez. Akbar thinks he would make a fine addition to Devastation (I understand the membership of Devastation Inc has dipped below 1000, so it's time to restock).

Jeff Jarrett and Matt Borne were fighting the Texas Tag Team Champs Brian Lee and Ron Fuller, but Travis interfered and clobbered Jarrett with his guitar. According to World Class rules, this would have meant a title change (Fuller and Lee were DQ'd) but when the name was changed to USWA, rule 45A, section B, ¶ 3 says, "Title changes will take place on the DQ when ever it fits our plans." For those of you keeping track at home, this brings the number of Travis guitar smashings to five (Percy Pringle, Embry, Jarret and Dundee).

Dundee had a good line while watching the women's match. Bill said that one of the girls, Sweet Georgia Brown, "doesn't have a big build on her and I know all about that...ah...because I'm not too big either."

Hey everyone, "Guess What Dumb Thing Marc Lowrance Said This Week!" During the Adams/Embry brawl: "This is terrible; I feel so helpless!"

After the Adams/Embry brawl: "Next week, hopefully, we'll have the answers to the solutions of this problem."

Next week hopefully, Marc, you'll also have the puzzles to the questions that arise as well.

* * MEMPHIS * *

JERRY LAWLER REGAINED THE unified title from King Cobra on 1/8 in Memphis. He used a chain to regain not only the belt, but also the crown he had lost to Cobra.

LAWLER HAS BEEN IN RARE FORM with his interviews. Some have been racially inclined, most directed toward Cobra before winning the title back. Some examples: "I know his real name. He was traced to the Boone family...the Bab Boone family." and "His family rented the basement of an outhouse."

LAWLER ALSO DID THE COLOR on the show and when Chis Champion came out for an interview, Lawler sprayed him with a can of Raid. We really haven't figured out why, though both agreed that they might have to meet in the ring someday. Champion's feud with Dirty White Boy is being downplayed right now. They wrestled on the 1/8 card, but were in a six man on the 1/15 card (Lawler, Soul Taker - Dutch, Cobra were the others).

IN THAT SIX MAN, STEVE AUSTIN was originally scheduled as a partner on the babyface side. Cobra came out and offered Austin \$1000 ("WOW!" thought Steve, "Three months' salary!") if he could take his place. Lawler had refused to give Cobra a rematch after regaining the title.

MORE AND MORE REFERENCES ARE being made to the USWA and more wrestlers and feuds are being brought in from Texas. Although the CWA logo still appears at the beginning of the show, Dave Brown opened the 1/14 TV show saying, "welcome to USWA wrestling." More on the future of the Memphis TV show in a minute.

ONE OF THE FEUDS BEING BROUGHT in is Dustin Rhodes vs Gary Young (Young called Dustin an "abortion mistake"). Those two have worked the last two Mid South Coliseum cards in a row.

BILL DUNDEE IS ALSO FEUDING WITH Billy Joe Travis. Travis won a 1/8 match by smashing his guitar over Dundee's head (are you keeping track, Mike?). This one wasn't like what they've been doing in Texas where the guitar stays together. This one splintered. On the 1/14 show, Dundee was out for an interview with fragments of the guitar. This set up a match on 1/15 where the fragment of the guitar at the top of a pole. First one to get it, of course, gets to use it on his opponent.

LAWLER HAS A NEW GIMMICK THAT WAS basically stolen from Paul E Dangerously. He is now carrying a celular phone to the ring with him. He comes out with the thing talking to "Donald." Trump, that is. The phone rings a little later and we find out that it's Art Modell, owner of the Cleveland Brown (Jerry's favorite football team) who invites Lawler to fly out to Denver for the playoff game. Later the phone rings again and this time Lawler has Dave Brown answer it. Christie Brinkley. At one point, Lawler is in the ring wrestling and he has Dave bring him the phone and he talks while applying a side headlock to his jobber opponent. It was cute, but it's going to get old fast, especially since it's basically a ripoff of Dangerously's

gimmick. I hope they get a good deal on cellular phones since I've got this feeling it's going to eventually get smashed over Lawler's head.

YOU HAVE TO WONDER JUST HOW much longer Lawler will be a heel. He's over well in the role, but he continues to play complete babyface on the Jerry Lawler show. Also, as springtime approaches, so does baseball season and that means Lawler's Army softball team will be playing for charity once again. Your guess is as good as mine.

AS REPORTED LAST ISSUE, the CWA and the USWA have merged and this will become more and more apparent as time goes on. We have some further information on the TV situation as well. They will continue to do the live show on Saturday morning, though the front office doesn't really want to. There may be a problem in conflicting schedules because they have been doing some taping on Saturday mornings in Dallas. It may come down to doing the angles and important stuff from Dallas and leave the Memphis live show being reminiscent of the final WWF tapings from the TBS studios (nothing but squashes).

WE HAVE LEARNED THAT Jerry Jarrett has been trying to get out of the contract the group has with WMC-TV in Memphis so they can initiate the new schedule and get out of the live studio tapings. I've been told from a source that is as reliable as they come that Chris Champion's "slip of the tongue" a few weeks back was no slip at all. It was a carefully designed ploy to get WMC to cancel the contract. I'm told that normally, whenever any wrestler would utter a profanity on live TV, they would have been fired immediately. We wondered what Chris Champion was thinking of when he said what he did and now we know.

THE WRESTLERS WILL BE working a split schedule between here and Texas. They'll be running shows in the Memphis area on Monday through Wednesday with shows in Texas the rest of the week. We're not sure what will happen to the traditional Saturday night show in Nashville, but attendance there has been worse than horrible so they may cut it back to once or twice a month. A lot of the wrestlers have apartments and houses in the Nashville area and the Saturday night show there gave them a short drive home, and usually Sunday and Monday (up to bell time Monday night in Memphis) off. One of the boys I talked with said that with the new plans he doesn't even have a clue as to where the best place to live would be.

MORE AWA NOTES...

The Main event at the latest taping was to be "a rage in a cage" between Destruction Crew and Paul Diamond/the Trooper. They didn't have a cage but billed it as such anyway. When fans approached Dale Gagner and Donna Gagne after the show and asked where the cage was, the fans were told by this duo to go ask the box office because they were "just the announcers." I don't know if this qualifies them for the Dipstick award next issue, but it certainly gets them the **BEST PASSING THE BUCK AWARD** for 1990.

World Wrestling Federation

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT A HULK Hogan-Ultimate Warrior match up is in store for Wrestlemania VI, April 1, 1990 (we keep hoping this is an April Fool's joke). I talked with our local cable company and they tell me that they already have information on the card including the name, "Wrestlemania VI: The Ultimate Challenge."

This means we'll be seeing the angles to set up this match over the next few weeks. One angle has already been shot. On the upcoming Saturday Night's Main Event (air date 1/27) Hogan and Warrior team against Lanny Poffo and Curt Hennig. During the match, Hogan is somehow disposed of while the heels are busy selling their butts off for a series of Warrior clotheslines when Hogan re-enters the ring. Hogan catches one "by accident." They shove each other a few times before shaking hands.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WILL BE SET UP at the Royal Rumble, if anything. The Rumble is scheduled for 1/21 with this edition of the Main Event the following weekend.

NOW FOR SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SITUATION: First, Wrestlemania is going to do well, no matter who they have in the main event with Hogan. Warrior is their number two babyface, and in some regards, is more popular than Hogan, especially with the younger audience. Turning Warrior heel goes against every marketing rule there is: You never sacrifice number two for number one. Give up number three, four or five, or all of those, but don't lose your number two weapon. You never know when there might be a car accident, plane crash or some other catastrophe that would cost you your number one star. Think about it. If something were to happen to Hogan, who would they use to lead the promotion? Warrior, at this point in time is capable of doing that despite his horrid work rate and interview skills. Turning Warrior would leave a mad scramble for the number two spot with Roddy Piper, Dusty Rhodes, Bossman (see later in the report) and Jake Roberts vying for the number two position. If something were to happen to Hogan, that would leave one of these four as the lead babyface, something that would create a lot of sleepless nights for Vince McMahon and company.

PIPER HAS BEEN A LEAD BABYFACE in the past as has Dusty. Jake has played baby in the old Mid South, but he's hardly the type to lead a promotion, especially in light of his upcoming troubles with the battery charge in Florida. Bossman, to my knowledge, has never done a babyface role which might work to his advantage. As for Roddy, he's lost a lot from his days as a hot babyface in Georgia, it's just that his reputation has managed to cover that up and a lot of fans haven't noticed yet. Dusty would probably be the best choice they could make (Boy did it hurt to say that!) at this point. I'm sure that's what beach this whale has tried to position itself on. He could fill the spot for six months max before he wore out his welcome. In that time period, the WWF would be very stupid indeed if they didn't start grooming someone else for the spot. No matter. If Ultimate Warrior does a full fledged turn, (and unless they do it that way, Warrior would get some cheers - he might anyway - and Hogan's ego would never stand for that) someone is going to have to fill the shoes as the number two babyface.

REGARDING THE BOSSMAN TURN, IT happened at the latest set of TV tapes in Huntsville on 1/2 and Chattanooga on 1/3. I'm not sure if they shot the angle twice or what, but I have about four different, yet similar versions of what happened. All of them involve Slick wanting Bossman to steal the million dollar belt from Ted DiBiase and Bossman refusing to do it. By the end of the third hour (week) Bossman is a full fledged baby. This is just conjecture, but I would guess that Bossman will be saying that he spent time guarding common thieves and he won't turn into

one himself. Akeem is still out of action so I don't know his status as to whether he will turn or not, but I suspect not. For the meantime, Bossman will feud with Ted.

TO CLARIFY THE FEUD WITH TED, I GUESS Ted was upset because Bossman wouldn't steal the belt back from Jake Roberts who had beaten him for it. Ted went to Slick and Slick instructed Bossman to steal it and that's where the turn came from.

THE PROBLEMS WITH VIEWER'S CHOICE, the syndicator of most of the PPV events, has been resolved. I've heard from both sides and both claim that they lost nothing in the deal and both claim that they didn't back down on their demands but the other side did. The bottom line is, both sides had a lot to lose by Titan pulling their PPV events from Viewer's Choice but everyone will be happy for the time being.

BOSSMAN IS OUT OF ACTION NOW WITH WHAT may be a legit injury. He's been showing up for his matches with Dusty Rhodes, but not wrestling. He's been seen limping around rindside while Slick takes his place in the ring. Relax, the matches are mercifully short.

EVIDENTLY, BARRY WINDHAM WON'T BE returning here, or anywhere else for that matter. From what we're told, he's met a girl who he's very serious about and she doesn't approve of his chosen career. He's willing to give up wrestling for her and she's well enough off that he won't need the money derived from wrestling anymore.

WHEN RON GARVIN AND GREG VALENTINE MEET at the Royal Rumble, it will be a submission match. Maybe I'm missing something here...Valentine uses the figure four for a submission hold but what does Garvin use? The Garvin stomp?

THE TAG TEAM SITUATION HERE IS a little shaken up with the recent title change. It seems the reason Andre and Haku were given the titles was to make Bobby Heenan happy. He was upset about losing Tully and Arn, and by firing them on Saturday Night's Main Event, making them babyfaces. He had planned on that burying them and putting himself over. Giving the titles to Haku and Andre seems to have taken the fans' mind off his "failure."

THE ORIGINAL PLAN HAD DEMOLITION holding the belts until Wrestlemania when they would drop them to Hennig and Poffo. A tentative plan had them feuding with the Rockers after that. No one knew if the Rockers were to have taken the titles from them or not.

THE ROCKERS ARE THE MOST OVER TEAM right now. It just goes to prove that a hard working team can get over with WWF fans like they could anywhere. But Vince, for some unknown reason, seems to be trying to hide them in a nowhere feud with the Powers of Pain. Marty and Sean have been alternating doing stretcher jobs for POP in order to get the heels over again.

THAT MAY BE COMING TO AN END SOON, though. Reportedly Pat Tanaka and Akio Sato have been signed as a new tag team and will be starting within the next few weeks. We can only assume that they will be heels and feud with the Rockers.

BOB ORTON IS ALSO A NEWCOMER as he starts full time (more or less) Monday in Madison Square Garden. I'm told that he's going to be on a very strict probationary period due to his drinking problems in the past.

THE LAWSUIT BY COMEDIAN Richard Beltzer against Hulk Hogan, Titan Sports and Mr. T has been settled out of court. No one would disclose the amount of the settlement, though insiders place the figure at around a million dollar or less. Titan was anxious to settle out of court to avoid publicity and Beltzer, who has not been any kind of show business show stopper since the incident was happy to get the money. One Titanite told me, "We should have sued him! Before Hogan dropped him on his head, no one had ever heard of him!"

ONE THING THAT PARTICULARLY upset me was the media coverage of the incident. All the TV news shows showed the clip of Hogan applying the front face lock and Beltzer collapsing afterward, but it cut off there. What it didn't show was Beltzer then leaping to his feet, smiling as though nothing had happened, and telling the audience, "We'll be right back after this..." The week following the incident, Beltzer took almost the entire show insulting Hogan and professional wrestling. A personal note, if you will... I think the whole thing was a publicity stunt on Beltzer's part to attempt to get himself better known. When it worked against him rather than for him, he turned it to his advantage. I understand that his stand up routine consists now of jokes about the incident and Hogan. That's probably the reason the guy's never made the really big time. He needs some new material.

HERE'S SOME QUICK RESULTS that missed our results section. from Allentown, PA on 1/7 courtesy of Gary Howerter...Koko bet Perez(B-)...Poffo by DQ over Neidhart (C)...Lombardi beat Powers (D)...Duggan by COR over Savage (B)...Valentine over Garvin (C)...Bushwhackers beat Bolsheviks (B). Attendance was 3000+, a sellout.

TITAN IS CLAIMING THAT THEY have signed a "major name from the NWA." They won't tell me who, so this could be just the agents trying to start more stories. The only possible name I can think of would be Sid Vicious who they have been in constant contact with since his hospitalization over the punctured lung. If the NWA is interesting in keeping this guy it would be advisable to at least send him a get well card every once in a while.

IT'S POWER STRUGGLE TIME, and Dusty has won the first round. Hogan no showed the latest St Louis card due to his flight being re-routed to Memphis. That left the card with no main event. To appease the fans, they scheduled an impromptu battle royal. Tony Garea was the agent (and booker) for this show and he decided to let Paul Roma win the royal because he works hard every night and ner gives any one any problems. Dusty had a temper tantrum and said that Roma winning was silly since he was just a jobber. Dusty insisted that he be put over in St Louis, and guess what...Dusty threw Curt Hennig over the top rope to win. That should give you some insight into Dusty's personality.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

12/27 PHILADELPHIA (NWA) - courtesy of CHRIS DELLOIACONO...Militia squashed Tommy Rich & Ranger Ross...Express over Dudes...girls match...Kevin Sullivan pinned Hector Guerrero...Pillman by DQ over Hayes...Sting & Arn Anderson beat Dragon Master & Buzz Sawyer...Roadies/Steiners beat Doom/Samoans...Flair pinned Luger...NOTES: Attendance: 3500...no shows included Ole Anderson, Muta, Garvin, & Eddie Gilbert...Dudes booed heavily...Shane flipped off the crowd...Sullivan cheered...crowd didn't seem to care about no shows.

12/28 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of FRED NAARISMA...Militia over Rich/Ross...Sullivan beat Guererro...Express defeated Dudes...Pillman by DQ over Hayes...Sting/Andersons pinned Sawyer/Dragon Master/Muta...Warriors/Steiners beat Samoans/Doom...Flair beat Luger by DQ...NOTES: Attendance: 3000...Flair had Luger in figure four and he grabbed ref for DQ...Tommy Rich did the job when he got whacked with Lord Littlebrook's cane...Garvin and Gilbert were no shows.

12/28 NEW YORK (WWF) - courtesy of CHRIS DELLOIACONO...Tito Santana beat Bob Bradley...midget tag team match...Martel pinned Beefcake...Tugboat squashed Dale Wolfe...Jake Roberts beat Ted DiBiase...Koko B Ware over Mike Sharpe...Andre/Haku over Demolition by COR...Piper beat Rude...NOTES: Bob Bradley was sub for Widowmaker...Andre/Haku announced as champions although the match had yet to air on TV.

12/29 SAN ANTONIO (USWA) - courtesy of MARCY ZARATE...JJ Funk drew Chris Youngblood...women's match...Jeff Jarrett beat BJ Travis...Kevin Von Erich rolled up Scott Braddock...Dustin Rhodes beat Gary Young...Kerry Von Erich pinned Jeff Gaylord.

12/29 GREEN BAY (WWF) - courtesy of ROD GERLACH...Earthquake pinned Mark Young...Bret Hart over Al Perez...Conquistador #1 beat Hercules by DQ...Sheepwhackers beat Bolsheviks...Dingbat pinned Bravo...Duggan by DQ over Savage...NOTES: Attendance 4800...Hart got biggest reaction of the night...3rd and 4th match nothing but comedy...Sherri worked harder than Duggan or Savage..."It was a good time if you wanted to catch a nap. Some of the wrestlers did."

1/5 DES MOINES, IA (WWF) - courtesy of DOYLE NORRIS...Earthquake pinned Roma (C)...POP defeated Rockers (B)...Hercules over Iron Mike (ZZZ)...Warrior by DQ over Bravo (C)...Tito pinned French Martin (ZZZ)...Jake DDT'd DiBiase (B)...NOTES: Attendance: 6500...Akeem and Windham both advertised but no showed...Jannety was the hardest worker orf the night.

1/11 HAMMOND, IN (NWA) - courtesy of STEVE SIMS...Royal Family beat Rich & Gilbert (B)...Rotundo pinned Ranger Ross (D)...Norman beat (Iron) Sheik (ZZ)...Z Man over Hayes (C)...Doc defeated Samoan Savage (C)...Roadies DCOR Skyscrapers (B)...Arn/Ole/Sting pinned Muta/DM/Sawyer (B)...Flair pinned Luger (A)...NOTES: Attendance 5400+ SRO...Iron Sheik has dropped "Iron" from his name...Doc-Samoan did false finish as did Flair Luger...Arn pinned Dragon Master in six man.

1/12 MOLINE, IL (WWF) - courtesy of MIKE MILLER...Earthquake pinned Roma (F)...Hercules over Tom Stone (F)...Dusty squashed Slick (F)...Bush whackers downed Bolsheviks... (F)...Tugboat pinned Frenchie Martin (F)...martel over Beefcake (D)...Warrior defeated Bravo (D)...NOTES: Attendance 6200+ SRO...Whackers-Bols was good comedy but no enough to save it...Martel had his feet on the ropes during pin...Warrior-Bravo went

1/14 ROCHESTER, NY (WWF) - courtesy of SEAN HENRICK...Perez pinned Roma....Poffo by DQ over Neidhart...Snuka rolled up HTM...Savage beat Duggan...Rockers by DQ over POP...Bret downed Iron Mike...Hogan squashed Hennig...NOTES: Attendance: 10,000+ sellout...Savage-Duggan best match... Sherri great at ringside...Bret vs Iron Mike was boring, setting up the crowd for Hogan.

* * MISCELLANEOUS STUFF * *

BLACKJACK MULLIGAN AND KENDALL WINDHAM were arrested in Florida for making big money. It was a quarter of an inch too big. Seriously, the father and son duo were arrested for allegedly trying to pass counterfeit \$20. Federal agents had been investigating a counterfeiting ring since early in 1989 and set up a "buy" (a price per bill is agreed upon, e.g. \$1.00 per \$20 bill) and the Feds taped the transaction. Blackjack (Robert Windham) was allegedly the one who showed up with the money for sale. They were to have had their first court date this past monday (1/8/90). Barry Windham arranged bail for his brother and father and is not a suspect in the case.

THE PITTSBURGH CIVIC ARENA PLAYED HOST to a unique wrestling event back on 12/26. Amateur wrestlers from the US and USSR competed in eleven matches under amateur rules for cash. \$65,000 in prize money was given out with the main event being worth \$8000 to winner John Smith of Stillwater, OK. Smith had won a gold medal at the 1988 Olympic Games. The most significant part of all this is that 9600 fans showed up for the event.

READER REQUEST: SEAN HENRICK, 121 SEVILLE DR, ROCHESTER, NY 14617 is looking for a copy of the Paul Boesch book, "Boy, Where'd You Get Them Ears." Also, Sean is planning on attending Wrestlemania live and would like to hear from anyone else who's planning on going as well. You can call him at (716) 342-9825.

ALLAN COOPER, 443 ELM ST, WYANDOTTE, MI 48192 is looking for just the results from the NWA Pro show from the weekend of 1/6-1/7. That's the one that came from Peoria.

SO MUCH FOR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS...we're late again. If there's more typos this issue than in the last few, please forgive me. It's a little hard to type with a cast extending from your fingers to your shoulder (long story).

THE AWA TITLE MAY BE BEING SOLD to the Japanese. Verne has realized that since it's only defended once or twice a month here and that the title itself is no longer a drawing card. In Japan, the title itself could be. By selling it, Verne could make as much or more as it would make him in a year. This would be the first indication that Verne is ready to call it quit. Although this is only an unconfirmed rumor at this point, it is supported by the fact that Zbyszko no showed a scheduled title defense for Bob Geigel in Kansas City on 12/28 and he wrestled only in squash matches on the latest set of tapes.

I'M STILL LOOKING FOR A TAPE OF the NWA Pro Show listed above. It has the Dynamic Dudes kidnapping my daughter Kelly from ringside. Contact me first before sending the tape and we'll work out a deal for it.

THAT'S IT FOR ANOTHER ISSUE. We'll be back in a couple weeks. The KHS Bullets ran into a string of bad luck but survived with a record of 15-1. Still ranked #5 in the state. See ya next time with complete Royal Rumble results, wrestling news, and a high school basketball update. Thanks for reading!

WRESTLING FORUM V5I1
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